Installation of Super Computer

3308. SHRI S. AUSTIN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Super Computer worth Rs. 400 crores was imported from U.S.A. during 1987-88 and was installed in Indian Meteorological Department at Lodhi Road, New Delhi for Long Range weather forecasting but it has never been used so far; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken or proposed to be taken to make up the losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) & (b) A Super Computer Cray X-MP/14 was imported at a cost of Rs. 12.40 crores during October, 1988 from M/s. Cray Research Inc., USA by the Department of Science and Technology for National Centre for Medium Range weather forecasting and was installed at India Meteorological Department Campus, Lodhi Road, New Delhi for development of numerical weather prediction techniques for medium range (3—10 days in advance) weather forecasting. It has been operational since end of March, 1989. It is also being used for crop-weather modelling studies by the India Meteorological Department and institutions like Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology. For these scientific applications the Indian scientists have been using the Super Computer independently.

Hand held Phone working through Satellites

@3309. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has bagged a contract for an international study on the feasibility of a system of hand held phone worked through a system of low earth orbiting satellites;

(b) if so, whether the contract was awarded by the International maritime Satellites Organisation;

(c) whether several countries have also shown positive interest in making use of remote sensing capabilities of Indian satellites; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) A number of Countries/Organisations have been approached about the possible utilisation of the Remote Sensing data from the Indian Remote Sensing Satellites. Some of them are—National Remote Sensing Centre, United Kingdom; Iranian Remote Sensing Centre, Iran; National University of Singapore; Swedish Space Corporation; SPOT Image EOSAT etc. The proposals are under discussion.

Nation-wide Project on landuse/land cover mapping

3310. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Space is carrying out, for Planning Commission, a nation-wide project on landuse/land cover mapping to operational plans for various agroclimatic zones; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) At the instance of Planning Commission, Department of Space has carried out a National Project on landuse/land cover mapping for the entire country on 1:250,000 scale using Indian Remote Sensing Satellite data. These maps prepared district-wise, provide information on agricultural areas, wastelands, forest cover, surface water bodies etc. Statistics for the various landuse/land cover categories have also been generated. The maps for 439 districts of the country have been completed and the same have been provided to planning Commission.

Launch of Satellite INSAT-2B

3311. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item in the Hindustan Times, dated 24th July, 1993 that according to Kazakh Deputy Prime Minister, G. A. Abilsyitov, launching of INSAT-2B satellite could have cost less, if facilities provided at Baikanour, Kazakhistan were availed by ISRO;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether any MOU was signed after the meeting of the Indo-Kazakh Joint Commission on 23rd July, 1993, if so, the details thereof; and

@Previously Unstarred Question 1871, transferred from 10th August, 1993.